

To: Dixie District Board of Trustees
Fr: Jason Yamashiro, Superintendent
Re: Research on Legal or Other Issues With Petitioned Names
Date: 2.6.19

The Board has received multiple petitions seeking to change the of Dixie Elementary School District's name. At the January 15th Board Meeting, the Board directed the superintendent to provide limited research on the proposed names with a focus on those that may already be "taken" in the state of California, those that may raise potential trademark or copyright issues, and those that are purportedly controversial according to publicly available information. From the petitions received, petitioners submitted the following proposed names:

- Live Oak Valley Elementary School District
- Terra Wood Valley Elementary School District
- Live Oak Elementary School District
- Oak Valley Elementary School District
- Miwok Elementary School District
- Miller Creek Elementary School District
- Skywalker Elementary School District
- Terra Linda Elementary School District
- Lucas Valley Elementary School District
- Miwok Hills Elementary School District
- John Muir Elementary School District
- Big Rock Elementary School District
- Mary Dixie Elementary School District

Names Already Taken or Substantially Similar to Existing Schools/Districts:

- Live Oak Elementary School District
- Oak Valley Union School District
- Miwok Valley Elementary Charter School

In summary, it is recommended that the Board reject Live Oak Elementary School District from consideration as there is already a California school district with that name. In addition the Board should be aware that there is an Oak Valley Union (not elementary) district, which would make that name substantially similar to a school district that already exists. It should also be noted that while there is not a Miwok or Miwok Hills, there is a Miwok Valley Elementary that is a charter school, and some charter schools consider their communities akin to school districts.

Names That Raise Copyright Or Other Legal Considerations:

- Skywalker Elementary School District

There is a trademark concern regarding the name "Skywalker", a trademark owned by LucasFilm Ltd. related to the Star Wars franchise. It is not evident that there would be legal trouble, but this trademark/copyright information is cause for concern. It is recommended that

until there is further research on this topic, and it is legally cleared, the Board not approve this name.

Names that Purport to be Controversial for Other Reasons:

The following should not be construed as a recommendation for or against a given name. It is only provided as information for the Board to take under consideration.

- Miwok Elementary School District
- Miwok Hills Elementary School District

Based on concerns in the written submissions for this public hearing, as well as some statements in public testimony at Board meetings, is not clear that there is support from Miwok tribal members for the district to use these names.

- John Muir Elementary School District

There is some current controversy that can be found online regarding John Muir. This relates to his writing and statements regarding Native Americans and other races which some describe as culturally insensitive or racist. It is not clear whether there has been a movement to change the name of any John Muir schools, but the board should be aware of the concerns.

- Mary Dixie Elementary School District

Based on public comment at the Board meeting and online, it is reasonable to believe that this name would be controversial. This is related to disagreement about the connection between Mary Dixie and the naming of the school district, as well as disagreement about whether people would continue to call the district Dixie if this were the new name.

- Miller Creek Elementary School District

While we have not received complaints about the name of Miller Creek Middle School, there were written submissions and online comments suggesting this name might be controversial. This is related to Miller Creek being named after James Miller, and concerns regarding Mr. Miller and the current name of the district.